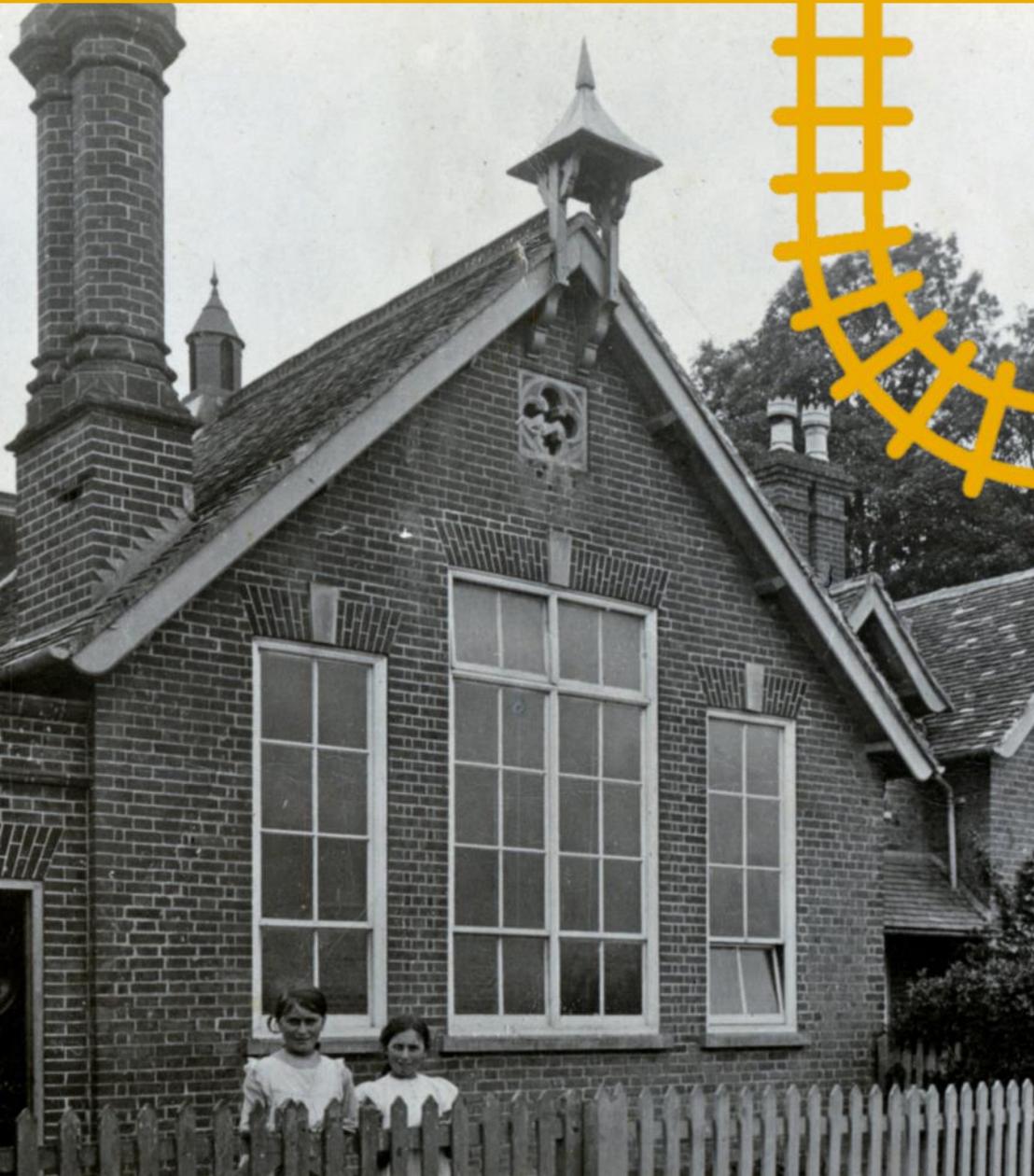


WOOD DALLING CYCLE LOOP



10 miles



The school house and two pupils at Wood Dalling. Image courtesy of Picture Norfolk, NCC.

A series of events that began at Wood Dalling School culminated in the longest strike in British history.

Annie and Tom Higdon started work at the school in 1902. Annie was determined that her pupils should receive a good education. She believed regular attendance was key.

Wood Dalling was typical of many rural communities. Most people relied on agricultural activities for income. Annie despaired that pupils were often absent from school having been employed as cheap labour on local farms. Pupils were often reported '*crow-keeping*', '*cattle-driving*' and '*hay-making*'.

One pupil, Albert Cottrell, was spotted working for Mr. Gamble in a field behind the school. When Tom challenged the farmer the two came to blows. Mr. Higdon was subsequently found guilty of assault. In a manoeuvre by the Governors, Mr. Gamble was later appointed a manager of the school.

The inevitable conflict between school management and the Higdons culminated in the couple being forced to relocate. In 1911 they started work at Burston School, almost 40 miles away.

The Higdons soon faced familiar problems at their new school. Annie was sacked for being discourteous to the management. The next day pupils refused to return to their classrooms. The Burston School Strike continued from 1914 to 1939, ending only with the death of Tom Higdon. During the strike the couple continued to teach pupils, first in makeshift classrooms, and later in a specially built schoolhouse, now preserved as a museum.

WOOD DALLING CYCLE LOOP



Square: St Andrew's church. Circle: a red admiral butterfly.

Wood Dalling Cycle Loop follows quiet country roads surrounded by open farmland framed by large oak trees and plantations of pine. It passes through the village of Guestwick, and between Themelthorpe and Reepham using a section of Marriott's Way.



Good to Know: You can start this cycle from Church Lane, Wood Dalling (NR11 6SN), or at Kerdiston Road (NR10 4FP), 300m west of Kerri's Farmhouse Pine (NR10 4LJ). There is also parking in Reepham centre.

The route follows quiet rural roads long its entire length. In drier months, and confident off-riders, an alternative unmaded track route is indicated by dashed lines.

